Support to physically and mentally challenged children

1641. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever conducted a research to ascertain why large number of children are physically and mentally challenged in the tribal areas of Central India, such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the measures contemplated to improve the situation;

(c) whether Government propose to offer institutional support to these children and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Since there is no evidence of higher prevalence of disability in Central India, no such study has been undertaken.

Outreach programmes of NIHH

1642. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of outreach programmes conducted by the National Institute for Hearing Handicapped (NIHH) in Andhra Pradesh during 2007-08;

(b) the number of deserving people helped by NIHH in 2006-07;

(c) the steps proposed by Government to expand activities of NIHH directly in distant and remote areas of the State;

(d) the problems being faced by NIHH in-fulfilling the targets; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the diverse restrictions imposed on NIHH by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Six camps have been organized by the National Institute for Hearing Handicapped in Andhra Pradesh during 2007-08.

(b) 12621 persons.

(c) There are 27 uncovered Districts (3 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and 7 in Karnataka, 6 in Maharashtra and 11 in Madhya Pradesh) allotted to NIHH under ADIP Scheme. The Institute is conducting camps in the districts.

(d) No problem has been faced by the Institute.

(e) No such restrictions are in operation.